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THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB BULLETIN

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No. 6

STOCKBRIDGE MEETING

REPORT BY MISS EUGENIA M. HENRY, RECORDER.

The 85th meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club was held at Stockbridge, October 22-24, in connection with the Berkshire Library Club, the Western Massachusetts Library Club and the Free Public Library Commission. All the meetings but one were held in the High School. About 150 librarians were present.

Mr. R. R. Bowker, editor of the Library Journal and president of the Stockbridge Library Association, welcomed the club. In most happy vein he invited all visitors to enjoy the natural beauties of Stockbridge, and outlined for them the interesting historical and literary associations of the place; he mentioned as deserving particular attention a collection of books in the library written either in or about Stockbridge, or by people of the town.

Rev. George N. Holcomb followed Mr. Bowker with an address upon "Rural literature". The speaker limited the title to writings which are artistic in form and expression, which make their appeal primarily not to the intellect but to the emotions and the will, and which aim to interpret nature or to idealize country life or rural vocations. After a brief discussion of the feeling for nature and the

idealization of rural life in Greek and Roman writers, such as Homer, Hesiod, Theocritus, Xenophon, Cicero, Virgil, Horace and Columella, and in some of the medieval and ballad literature, he traced the revival of nature feeling in English and Scottish poetry and its development, through various phases, in some of the representative writers from James Thomson to our own time. The literary expression of nature feeling among prose writers, beginning with Isaac Walton and Gilbert White, was then described. The first half of the address closed with a discussion of the value to the countryman of the culture which he may derive from the literature which enables him to appreciate his natural environment, and to add thereby to the interest and satisfaction of rural life. The second part was devoted to a discussion of the idealization of country life among English and American writers of fiction, the discussion being limited to a few representative writers. Reference was made to the portrayal of rural life by Balzac and Auerbach, and to the idealistic elements to be found in some of the agricultural and horticultural writers. The evolution of the ideal of the ruralization of the city was traced through Sir Thomas More, Ruskin, Morris and the modern garden city literature.

Mr. J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., opened the session Friday morning by the reading of a letter from Mr. Lane, of the Harvard College library. Mr. Lane again called the attention of the club to the union list of periodicals of Boston and vicinity being edited by Mr. Homer. He expressed the hope that many libraries would further the work of Mr. Homer by subscriptions.

Mr. Fleischner showed a copy of the new edition of the "Catalogue of architectural literature" published by the Boston Public Library. It contains many new topics—city planning, village improvement, restoration of buildings, expositions—which make it a valuable bibliographical tool for libraries, both large and small.

Mr. Wellman, as president of the A. L. A., and Dr. Hill, of Brooklyn, as a visitor, were officially greeted by the president of the club and made fitting reply.

Mr. Henry L. Johnson, editor of *The Graphic Arts*, who read the first paper, "American printing of to-day: its achievements and its faults," divided the subject into two parts—book and commercial

printing. He brought before the club some of the general features of the printing industry of to-day. 1—The dominant note of beauty and comfort prevailing in the buildings of modern printing and publishing houses. 2—The great improvement in illustrations and commercial printing constantly taking place, due to rotary photogravure, for example, and the off-set process. 3—The status of book printing. In the thirty thousand printing and publishing offices of the United States there are hardly a score pre-eminent for the high standard of their book-making. This is due partly to the fact that comparatively few employees in such shops are by training and interest qualified for book-making, and partly to the indifference to craftsmanship on the part of the publisher. "It is a matter of much pride that the best made books both in the field of general literature and in school books are produced in New England," Mr. Johnson remarked. 4—The enormous development of commercial printing, beginning with the day of the handbill and the market report and coming down to our own period of the mail order catalogue, which sells literally millions of dollars worth of goods a year. 5—The need for thorough training in historic ornament and classic lettering to be applied to industrial design. The requirement is not for a greater originality and versatility on the part of the designer, but a personal expression resulting from instruction as laid down above. The best letterers we have to-day, such as Goudy, Hapgood, Dwiggins, Cleland and Edwards, are students of historical design and of classic lettering. 6—The educational steps which have been taken in printing. Since the apprenticeship system has lapsed there has been nothing to take its place until recently when printing classes have been started in grammar and high schools, which contribute somewhat to advancement in the craft. In Boston, New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh and Atlanta courses in printing and an apprenticeship system have been successfully combined. In the same cities a zest for better printing is shown by the organization of craftsman's clubs. Since the men composing these associations naturally will turn to libraries for books on their subject, the best must be gathered there for them. Mr. Johnson recommended a few books dealing with lettering, design, advertising and printing, which might well be available in public libraries in

towns where there is any amount of printing. "Many of the books on letters and lettering now found in public libraries," he said, "are antiquated and inartistic and should be withdrawn from use. The best book on the subject is "Letters and lettering" by F. C. Brown." A list of the books recommended is printed on page 109 of this Bulletin.

The second part of Mr. Johnson's talk consisted of running comments on his exhibit of commercial printing and the best in American book-making. He showed books by Mr. Updyke who has set the standard for the most decorative type of book design and typography for fiction and general literature. He showed, also, examples of old style antique, Montaigne type by Bruce Rogers, and Roman type most legible and clear, embodied in a little book on American literature by W. J. Long, published by Ginn. As a specimen of the best in advertising literature Mr. Johnson drew attention to a beautifully illustrated book put out by a construction company. The illustrations did not show cuts of machinery as might have been expected, but symbolized the aims and ideals of the company's work.

The "Quest of the type ideal" by Mr. William Dana Orcutt, of the Plimpton Press, was closely allied to the foregoing paper. He took the subject back to the beginnings of printing. Printing from the stamp was known to the Greeks and to the Romans, individual type was known to the Chinese who taught its use to the Saracens, the Koreans had movable types 600 years before Gutenberg, but it remained for the latter to put them together and to appreciate their wonderful power as the material expression of the thought of man.

Mr. Orcutt explained the evolution of type designing from the earliest times to the present, showing with the aid of the stereopticon examples of the famous type faces of Schoeffer, Jensen, Aldus, Etienne, Plantin, Elzevir, Baskerville, Didot, Bodoni, William Morris, Emery Walker, and of his own "humanistic type," pointing out their characteristics and showing the rise and fall in the degree of excellence as indications of the culture of the period. A pleasing feature of Mr. Orcutt's talk was a recital of his personal experiences at the Laurentian library in Florence in designing his "humanistic" type. "It seemed strange," Mr. Orcutt said, "that no one had ever used the hand lettering of the original manuscripts as the basis of a

type, being content to base new faces on old types, themselves based upon hand lettering of lesser excellence." Mr. Orcutt himself has gone back to the original and produced the "humanistic type," as exemplified in "The triumphs of Francesco Petrarch," published by Little, Brown. Characteristic examples of the work of the printers referred to were exhibited.

In the afternoon the meeting was held at the log cabin of Mr. R. R. Bowker where the program was carried out in connection with the reception and tea. As the day was warm the meeting was held out doors in the pine woods.

Mrs. Mary E. Root, children's librarian of the Providence (R. I.) Public Library, spoke on "The negative and the positive side of the library work with children; or, Is there a backbone in library work with children,"—the latter half of the title being added as a concession to the critics of children's work. While the latter have ceased to call it sentimental, there is still a question as to whether it is over developed. A recreation survey conducted in Providence in 1912 showed 25,000 children patronizing the moving pictures, 10,000 the pool rooms, and 8,000 the dance halls in one week. A questionnaire conducted by the schools brought to light who is supplying the reading besides the library and what is its character. Probably Alger's books sell better than those of any other one juvenile author. He has seven publishers and his books can be bought for from 10 cents to \$1.00 per copy. The need is for more good books in cheaper editions. The Boy Scout library is a fine beginning, but good books for less than 50 cents should be found on the market. When "Heidi," "Captains Courageous" and "Treasure Island" are to be bought at 10 cents a copy, the vote for the "favorite" author will be changed. A library in buying books should duplicate worth while titles rather than buy a large number of different ones. To lead children to read bigger and finer books was the keynote of Mrs. Root's talk. There are many ways of doing this, co-operating with the schools, keeping in touch with the mothers' clubs, but the finest way is in conducting a "story hour,"—not a story hour as generally understood where a desultory course is pursued, but reading aloud to a group of children a book, chapter by chapter, from week to week. Mrs. Root has had

remarkable success with this method. To make 100 boys understand one fine book is better than charging 1000 books simply to run up the circulation.

Mr. G. L. Lewis, of Westfield, continued the subject of work with children, explaining an outline prepared by the Western Massachusetts Library Club on how to use the library. This is printed on page 111 of this Bulletin. A general discussion followed the presentation of this subject. Miss Alice M. Jordan, of Boston, suggested that the value of the outline would depend upon the co-operation of the teachers. She also thought it advisable to include in the hour's work some explanation of the use of indexes and tables of contents in an ordinary book. Cambridge has 600 High School freshmen. In different divisions they come to the library for two periods five days in the week for a fortnight. At Springfield they cover fewer subjects and more simply. The children learn to use the catalogue and answer five questions from books found in their room.

At the evening meeting there were two sections. At one, Mr. Walter R. Briggs, librarian of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn., spoke on the "Use and care of maps", and Mr. Archibald Cary Coolidge, director of the Harvard University Library, spoke on "Some problems of a university library." At the other, the local secretaries related the experiences they had had in their work. Miss Louisa M. Hooper being unable to preside, Mr. Fison conducted this meeting.

Mr. Briggs thinks so much has been done in the way of general indexes such as Poole's that it would be both possible and desirable to compile a fully annotated list of atlases and maps in print, together with an index to the best maps in recent books and periodicals and to keep up a yearly supplement of the same. But, even if this is not done, he says "we have not extracted from the books upon the shelves of our libraries all the 'by products' which they are capable of furnishing and for which there is popular and genuine demand" and we can go a long way toward solving the problem by adding to the catalogues under the subject of maps many more cards than is now the practice, by adopting some uniform method of more fully describing the maps, and by exhibiting them on a revolving map rack.

Teachers of history and geography are making far more use of

good maps than formerly. The New England Teachers' Association has collected and deposited in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts the nucleus of a collection of maps, charts, books, casts, models and wall pictures which will gradually be enlarged to meet the demands of all history teachers. These are accessible to librarians.

While such a collection may not be of practical value nor available to everybody, even the smaller libraries, with the necessary trouble can extract a good deal of material from encyclopedias, atlases, and guide books, directories and books of travel.

Mr. J. R. Coolidge, Jr., seconding Mr. Briggs' suggestions for a usable map collection, added that libraries ought to acquire old county maps which are invaluable for future as well as present use.

The first of "Some problems of a university library" is the financial one, Mr. A. C. Coolidge said. "It is not a question of making ends meet, but of making so many ends meet." Then comes the question of providing duplicate copies. Undergraduates buy fewer books than they did a generation ago because the text book has been largely superseded by the laboratory method and students must refer to many different treatises on the same subject. Shall the college have an excellent reference librarian? If so, the student is apt to think he has found the royal road to learning. Then again the faculty expects the library to keep abreast of the times, which means the purchase of current as well as more recondite books on every imaginable subject and even when special funds are available, the books you want most to buy and the books you have the money for are not necessarily the same. How thoroughly should the books in foreign languages be catalogued? The subject catalogue is generally helpful and useful to undergraduate students, but not to a specialist. He cares only that books be classified as closely as possible and be carefully arranged on the shelves, to which he must have access. Last but not least of the problems of a university library is the one of lending books. It is flattering to be asked for rare books, but often they are gone when they are most needed on the shelves of the home library, and sometimes it is hard to feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Mr. Fison heard the reports of the various local secretaries ap-

pointed by the Free Public Library Commission. These revealed a number of novel methods of dealing with the question involved, which is to bring the librarians of the smaller libraries together in groups where they may talk freely without feeling the constraint imposed by large numbers of people and without being obliged to go far and be at great expense. In some instances the largest library of the group made a sort of social affair of a meeting, serving tea and other refreshments, discussing the problems of the smaller libraries at the same time. Some had meetings to which outside speakers were bidden. Others showed their own resources, discussed new books, saved up typical questions to be answered. Again other secretaries have simply made neighborly calls. Inter-library loans have been established as the result of meetings. Such gatherings will doubtless serve as a clearing-house for ideas, and an incentive to enthusiastic work upon the part of all concerned.

At the end of the Friday evening meeting Mr. Moulton moved a vote of thanks for the kindly reception by the Stockbridge Library Association, Mr. and Mrs. Bowker and the hotel management, and so filled was everyone with a sense of friendly hospitality enjoyed and of general pleasure in the entire meeting that a blanket motion to cover all exigencies was proposed by the president and heartily acceded to by all.

Saturday morning's session, the Free Public Library Commission Conference on "How some interesting problems have been practically solved," was presided over by Mr. O. C. Davis, of Waltham. Miss Abby L. Sargent, of Medford, said her aim this year had been to draw children from the cheap picture shows. Accordingly the library bought a radiopticon for approximately \$30 and began work last December with a presentation of "The Birds' Christmas Carol." From that time on, stories in series were conducted. Travel talk afternoons were followed up with the circulation of books on the subject. Industries of Medford, logging and ship building, care of and kindness to animals, were other afternoons' entertainments. This year Miss Sargent expects to try one long story, continued from week to week, since desultory work merely produces "mental indigestion". Mr. Evans, of Woburn, thinks the services of many people who can-

not afford to contribute money to the library can be had for the asking in a small community. He made most practical and economical suggestions for covering circulating magazines, for keeping newspapers when a library had no newspaper room, and disposing of other vexing matters of a like nature. His knowledge of materials, prices, and where to buy was at the disposal of the audience.

Miss Thurston, of Leicester, spoke of the need in her library of a lecture room, and how she can make over what is now a museum for that purpose. She spoke, too, of getting a group of librarians together to solve the problems of book repairing, under Miss Tillinghast's direction. Miss Sornborger, of Hopedale, told of the Victrola concerts given at her library Sunday afternoons. People are invited to bring their own records and one-twentieth of the population have so far cordially responded. The latter part of Saturday morning Miss Tillinghast gave her book-mending demonstration.

BOOKS ON PRINTING, LETTERING AND DESIGNING

RECOMMENDED BY MR. HENRY L. JOHNSON,
Editor of the Graphic Arts.

Brown, F. C. Letters and lettering. 1902. Bates & Guild. \$2.00

An illustrated treatise containing a collection of alphabets of standard and modern forms, so arranged as to be most practically and conveniently useful to designers, architects, craftsmen, and all who draw letter forms. The best single book on the subject.

Crane, Walter. Of the decorative illustration of books old and new. 1901. Macmillan. \$2.00.

A very useful résumé of book illustration from the earliest times, with numerous reproductions of the best examples.

Day, Lewis F. Alphabets, old and new. 1911. Scribner. \$1.25

————— Lettering in ornament. 1902. Scribner. \$2.00

DeVinnie, Theodore L. Practice of typography. 4v. 1900-04. Century. \$2.00 each.

The four volumes are: Plain printing types, Correct composition, Modern methods of book composition, Title pages.

- Handbook of style**, in use at the Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1913. Houghton, Mifflin. \$.50.
- Johnston, Edward.** Writing and illuminating and lettering. 1907. Macmillan. \$2.00.
- Parsons, F. A.** Principles of advertising arrangement. 1912. Prang Co. \$2.00.
- One of the best books in the advertising field and of great value to the student of design as well as to the advertiser.
- Rhead, G. W.** Principles of design. 1905. Scribner. \$2.25
- Shaylor, H. W.** Book of alphabets for use in schools. 1908. Ginn. \$.10.
- Smith, Adele M.** Proof reading and punctuation. 1905. Philadelphia. Pub. by author. \$1.10.

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

BY GEORGE L. LEWIS, LIBRARIAN,
Westfield Athenaeum.

The question of teaching children how to use the library needs no defense before an audience composed of librarians. While children are being and have been so instructed for years, there has not been, so far as I am aware, any other instance in which systematic effort has been made by a library club to push this work along definite lines throughout the entire region covered by its membership.

The plan of the Western Massachusetts Club, an outline of which is before you, contemplates primarily, that every child in the schools in western Massachusetts, especially the counties of Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden, shall have instruction of an hour's duration on the use of the library. It is aimed to take this up during the final year of the grammar grade and for the instruction to be given in the majority of cases by the librarian, presumably in the library itself. The aim of this instruction is to make the child at home in the pub-

lic library, inspire in him the feeling that the institution is his to make use of at all times and in so doing to make him familiar with the arrangement of the books on the shelves, the finding of books through the catalogue, and the use of a very few of the most important reference works, in so far as the time permits.

The outline contemplates the doing of this through brief instruction followed by a few minutes of practical work. It is believed that no more than this can be taken up with profit at a single exercise. At the outside only two or three of the most useful reference books, the dictionary, the encyclopedia and the World Almanac can be treated within the time. Later, if this work is successfully accomplished in accordance with the aims of the club, it is hoped that a further outline or outlines can be prepared for additional study of a similar character. It is believed that the outline can be followed, at least in part, successfully in libraries of any size, though in its preparation the needs and opportunities of the smaller towns have been kept especially in view, and nothing has been suggested which should not be feasible in every town which has an organized library, and as is well known Massachusetts has no town without one.

In carrying out this plan the sympathy and co-operation of the teachers and school superintendents is not only to be desired but essential. The State Board of Education has been approached in the matter and has indicated its interest and readiness to co-operate.

The following is the outline addressed to the librarian.

OUTLINE FOR AN HOUR'S EXERCISE ON HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

To be taken up by the librarian with children of the
highest grammar grade.

PREPARED BY THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

THE LIBRARY.

What is a library? Not merely a collection of books, but a storehouse of information, a place to find reading for amusement or instruction. Information chiefly taken up under this exercise.

What is the public library? Supported by the people and open to all the people it forms a part of the system of public education, and one which all can continue participating in through life.

How many of you are in the habit of using the library? Your fathers' taxes help support the library, and we would welcome you and urge you to regard it as your own for all legitimate purposes.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF BOOKS.

How many of you have ever noticed whether the books seemed to be in any special order? It is necessary to group books on similar subjects together, as, *e. g.*, all American histories.

Can you think of some other kinds of books to be grouped together? Books on how to do things, bird books, travel books, cook books, etc.

Have you ever noticed numbers on the books? (Explain briefly the general grouping and the numbering used in the library. If the decimal classification is used, explain the grouping into ten main divisions and what these are. Explain terms not readily understood.)

(If book numbers are used show how it is necessary where there are many books on any subject to arrange them in some definite order so that any particular book can be quickly found, and that this order is usually alphabetical by author. In looking for a book by number find the classification number first and then the book number.)

How is biography arranged? Alphabetically by the individual about whom the book is written.

How is fiction arranged? Alphabetically by the authors.

(Have a practical exercise giving each pupil the number of a book to be looked up on the shelves; then interchange the books and have them put away, the pupil remaining by the book until the librarian has verified the work.)

THE CATALOGUE.

Explain the necessity of having a key to the contents of the library when you are in search of some particular thing or book. What is such a key called? The catalogue.

How many of you are in the habit of using the catalogue?

What kinds of questions would you expect the catalogue to answer? (A) Whether the library has a book of a certain title. (B) What books the library has by any particular author. (C) What books the library has on any particular topic.

How are the cards in the catalogue arranged? Author, subject, and title, all in one alphabet, as in a dictionary.

Of course you must know thoroughly the order of the letters of the alphabet, for this is absolutely essential in hundreds of ways in daily life.

What are reference cards? Cards directing you to look in another place for the items you are in search of, as, *e. g.*, Twain, Mark, *see* Clemens, S. L.

(Have a sample set of typical cards, author, title, and subject, and reference, and explain the significance of the different parts, the call number, imprint, why the author's name is inverted, etc.)

(Give pupils different topics, authors, and titles to look up in the catalogue and then find the books from the call numbers.)

REFERENCE BOOKS.

What are reference books? Books containing much information in small compass for use in the library only.

How many can name a reference book?

(a) *The Dictionary.*

What do you use the dictionary for? Primarily to find the spelling and meaning of words, but many other things can be found there as well.

How is it arranged? Alphabetically.

What are some of the other things that can be found? The pronunciation, part of speech, earlier and possibly obsolete meanings, derivation of the word, phrases illustrative of its use, idiomatic phrases or expressions into which it enters, pictures, synonyms and antonyms.

(Quote sample word from the dictionary, reading all that is found under it, and have the children tell the above items as they are read.)

What supplementary material can be found in the dictionary?

Abbreviations, biographical, geographical, scriptural names, foreign phrases, names famous in literature, arbitrary signs, pictures, etc.

Where is this supplementary material found? At the foot of the page, and to some extent in the back, in the case of the New International; in the back of the Standard; in the text of the Century and in its Book of Names.

(b) *The Encyclopedia.*

How does the encyclopedia differ from the dictionary? Does not list all words, but gives extensive description of the topics included, treats of history and description of countries, lives of people, general subjects such as natural history, science, telegraphy, and the like.

How is it arranged? Usually alphabetically.

How do you use it? Notice the letters on the back to find the volume in which is the article which you desire. Heed the cross references. In the case of the Britannica use the index.

(c) *The World Almanac.*

What is it? A remarkable compilation published annually, giving an immense variety of facts and figures on politics, statesmanship, happenings of the day, great men of the time, officers of states and nations, etc. "If you cannot find a thing anywhere else look in the World Almanac."

How do you use it? By means of the index in the front.

(The use of other reference books such as indexes to periodicals, books of quotations, atlases, etc., can be taken up at the discretion of the librarian.)

"When in doubt consult the librarian."

MASSACHUSETTS STATE DOCUMENTS

Attention is called to the provisions of the Acts of 1914, providing for the distribution of Massachusetts public documents. Librarians should give this careful consideration, as hereafter no public documents will be sent to public libraries unless they are asked for. A list of the documents wanted by each public library should be sent to the secretary of the commonwealth as soon as possible.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

(REVISED LAWS, CHAPTER 9, SECTION 8, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 422, ACTS OF 1908 AND CHAPTER 336, ACTS OF 1914.)

The secretary of the commonwealth shall furnish one copy of each report included in the public document series to each member of the legislature and executive departments, to the clerk of each branch of the general court and to each of the persons who are entitled to the privileges of the reporters' gallery of the senate or of the house. HE SHALL ALSO FURNISH TO EACH CITY AND TOWN IN THE COMMONWEALTH, TO BE PRESERVED IN A PUBLIC PLACE THEREIN, ONE COPY OF EACH OF SUCH REPORTS AS THE CITY OR TOWN CLERK MAY APPLY FOR. HE SHALL FURNISH ONE COPY OF EACH OF SAID REPORTS TO SUCH PUBLIC AND OTHER LIBRARIES AS MAY APPLY THEREFOR. If the commissioner of public records at any time shall report to the secretary of the commonwealth that, in his opinion, a city or town is unable to make suitable provision for the care and use of such documents, he may discontinue sending them to such city or town.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY WORK FOR LIBRARIANS

As librarians are now expected to have some aptitude or training for social work, attention is called to the opportunity to get such training now provided by the School for Social Workers, 18 Somerset St., Boston. A course in social work is now in progress evenings until May 6, 1915. The course includes a wide range of topics in many of which the public library has active interest. Circulars about the course may be obtained from Mr. Albert J. Kennedy, 18 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass.

NEWS FROM THE LOCAL LIBRARY CLUBS

The Bay Path Library Club held its autumn meeting at the Damon Memorial Public Library, Holden, Mass., Oct. 1. The club

received a very hearty welcome from Mr. W. L. Williams, trustee of the Holden Library.

After a short business meeting, the "Question-box" was opened by Miss Florence E. Wheeler, and the members of the club joined in a most informal discussion of library problems. It was such a practical method of solving problems, it will undoubtedly be repeated at future meetings.

Miss Abby B. Shute, librarian of the Free Public Library at Auburn, Mass., gave a very interesting paper on the work with children in a small library. "How the public libraries may assist in the work of the extension service of Massachusetts Agricultural College" was taken up by Prof. Laura Comstock, of the department of home economics. Prof. Comstock not only pointed the way to help the M. A. C. work, but she gave many practical suggestions in regard to the best books to purchase, and told of many ways in which the college extension work could be of service to the libraries.

Mr. Orlando C. Davis, librarian of the Waltham Public Library, read a paper on "The library and the general morality of a community." The paper was full of very broad ideas, and was a splendid inspiration to all library workers.

FLORENCE E. WHEELER, Secretary.

The Southern Worcester Library Club held its eighteenth meeting in Framingham. At roll call, sixteen libraries were represented in the audience of twenty-six.

Mr. Stebbins, chairman of the Framingham trustees, cordially welcomed the club.

Miss Franklin, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the following list of officers for the ensuing year:

President: Mrs. E. M. Arnold, Ashland.

First Vice-President: Miss Ethelwyn Blake, Milford.

Second Vice President: Miss Blanche E. Partridge, Holliston.

Secretary: Miss Lucy W. Biscoe, Grafton.

It was voted that the secretary cast one ballot for the above named officers. Mrs. Arnold declared them elected.

Miss Sornborger, in her report of the Stockbridge meeting, said

it was one of the best she ever attended, as it had the larger character of a national meeting. She brought to us the spirit of the session in a charming manner.

Mrs. Whittemore, of Hudson, spoke on "Some advantages of the small library." She said she was keenly alive to the disadvantages of the small library, but she knew there were distinct advantages also. The selection of books for a small library is a greater problem than for a large one, as resources are generally limited, yet a small library may have a larger percentage of excellence. This is one way the large library can help the small one, by advising the best book on a subject to buy, and by loaning from its larger collection. In a small library, the librarian can *know* her people and her books, whereas the larger library is often handicapped by wealth of material and size of patronage. A large library has many rules that must be enforced, while a small library has a distinct advantage in fewer rules and those as elastic as possible. In speaking of publicity, she said the best advertisement for a library is a satisfied patron. She spoke of the great assistance a small library might receive from the Free Public Library Commission, which is always ready to give expert advice.

Miss Moore, of the English Department of the Framingham Normal School, spoke on her work in reading. She based her remarks on papers which her girls had written about their choice of books. No one reported a liking for history and not many for poetry. Preferences were expressed for biography, travel, current topics in newspapers and magazines, and fiction. Of standard fiction, Dickens and Scott were preferred to Thackeray. Historical novels received highest praise because of their power to enlighten history. Of recent fiction, mention was made of "The Rosary," "T. Tembarom," "Girl of the Limberlost," "Secret Garden," "Pollyanna," and the books of Marion Crawford and Joseph Lincoln. Children's books were favorites with many of the girls, in fact the juniors are urged to read plenty of children's books. They are also urged to read one standard author thoroughly that they may know a certain style.

Mrs. E. M. Arnold, of Ashland, gave an interesting report of her European trip this summer. She gave vivid pen pictures of the

principal places visited; then described how her party ran from the Germans.

A rising vote of thanks was given the speakers and the librarian and trustees of the Framingham library.

ETHELWYN BLAKE, Secretary.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Massachusetts and Rhode Island libraries may insert in the Bulletin, without cost, notices of books or periodicals wanted, for sale, or exchange.

OFFERS

BROOKLINE, MASS., PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Massachusetts in the Army and Navy during the war of 1861-1865; ed. by T. W. Higginson. 2v. 1896.

FOR EXCHANGE

WALTHAM, MASS., PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Annals of the American Academy (cloth binding.)

American waterways. Jan. 1908.

Insurance. Sept. 1905.

Lessons of the financial crisis. March, 1908.

Social work of the church. Nov. 1907.

Proceedings of the New York Conference for Good City Government. 1905.

Proceedings of the Mass. Historical Society. Vol. 43. (Oct. 1909-June 1910.)

James Gillespie Blaine; by Edward Stanwood. 1905.

MASSACHUSETTS FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

Notes from the Field

The libraries at Granby, Sherborn, Dana, North Dana, Berlin, Ashfield, New Braintree and Middlefield have been re-catalogued recently and the library at Sutton has been re-classified under the supervision of the Commission.

The new library building at Ashfield is a gift from Mr. Milo M. Belding and has been most generously endowed by him.

Shelburne Falls is also fortunate in its new building, the gift of Francis R. and Lydia Taft Pratt of Greenfield.

On September 7th the new building at Leyden was dedicated. This is a gift from Mr. James Robertson of New York who has also endowed it, and the site was given by Mr. Albert J. Shattuck, one of the trustees. A printed catalogue has been prepared under the direction of the Commission and Mr. Robertson has met the expense of printing.

The new library at Sharon was opened to the public November 28th, funds for the building being raised by popular subscription and by a gift of \$10,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie.

Mrs. Elveretta S. Blake has been appointed librarian of the Adams Free Library as Miss Lucy Richmond, former librarian, has accepted the position of superintendent of the circulating department in the Springfield City Library. The re-classifying and re-cataloguing of the library is being completed.

An interesting meeting of the local group of librarians was held recently at Norwood. Miss Ruby Tillinghast gave a book mending demonstration.

The Brockton Public Library announces an excellent course of lectures on Friday evenings during January, February and March.

The Chicopee Library invited all the children to a Christmas tree Christmas week, and a story hour for the first, second and third

grades was held on December 24th. A table of Christmas books was displayed.

The December bulletin of the Milton Public Library contains an interesting Christmas list for young and old. An exhibit of attractive books for young people was held from November 21 to December 21.

All librarians are interested in the Wilson Bulletin devoted to the H. W. Wilson Company publications, the first number of which has just been published.

Pratt Institute Free Library has published a list of "Technical Books of 1913", and the Denver Public Library "Gift books for children".

A neighborhood meeting was held at the Haverhill Library December 10th, at which 38 librarians and trustees from libraries of the Merrimac Valley and southern New Hampshire were present. Mr. John G. Moulton spoke of the ways in which neighboring libraries could co-operate. As the usual Christmas exhibit of children's books was in progress, attention was called to some of the best new children's books, and to some of the inexpensive editions of standard children's books which might be used for replacements. Miss Florence T. Blunt spoke of and displayed some of the recent and standard inexpensive reference books desirable for a small library. A question box brought out a number of practical suggestions, and a demonstration of book mending was given. An exhibition was made of pictures available at the Haverhill Library for lending to nearby libraries. The Children's Christmas exhibition lasted from November 25 to December 23. For this exhibition several publishers sent examples of their standard and recent children's books. As suggestions for Christmas gifts for the older people a display of Medici prints, including those appropriate for Christmas, was made at the same time. The usual evergreen decorations and the bright colors of the Medici prints made the otherwise somber room very attractive.

The Free Public Library Commission and the Massachusetts Agricultural College will have an exhibit of travelling libraries in foreign and English, books for children, bulletins, pamphlets and suggestive booklists at the Malden meeting.

The Free Public Library Commission solicits items of interesting activities from all librarians in the state, and especially desires that local secretaries send reports of neighborhood meetings and other activities.

Attention is called to a circular by Mr. Byron Berkeley Johnson, addressed to libraries of the state. It begins as follows: "I have been urged by members of the State Board of Library Commissioners and prominent citizens to have my book 'Lincoln-Corbett-Booth-Davis' placed in every library in the state." The Commission has not so urged and Mr. Johnson has been advised that he made unwarranted use of the name of the Commission.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

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Mr. Orlando C. Davis, Public Library, Waltham.

Mr. Charles R. Green, Massachusetts Agricultural College Library, Amherst.

Ex-President: Mr. Drew B. Hall, Public Library, Somerville.

Secretary: Mr. John G. Moulton, Public Library, Haverhill.

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